

ARTICLE ALERT



INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER, U.S. EMBASSY, JAKARTA

Volume 7, July 2009

Copies of the articles listed in Article Alert are available from the Information Resource Center, Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy Jakarta. Should you wish to receive a photocopy of an article, please complete the ARTICLE ALERT REQUEST FORM (page 4) and return it to us. We will mail or fax the requested articles directly to you at no cost.

Blogs at America.gov

Blogs at America.gov offers readers a place to discuss designated topics with experts from the United States and around the world, and to share their comments and reactions with the broader Internet public.

You can join in conversation with topic experts and writers in several important fields.

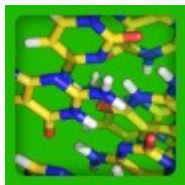


Obama Today: Following Barack Obama

Obama Today will follow President Obama's initiatives and policy directions.

By the People: A Citizen-Led Conversation

Democracy is a way of life.



Science Planet: Discoveries at the Edge

Science Planet offers profiles of some of the leading scientists from around the world.



Talking Faith: U.S. Religious Life Now

Talking Faith explores the complexity of life in a religiously diverse nation.

Rumors, Myths, and Fabrications: A Guide to What Isn't True

Examining rumors, conspiracy theories and false stories.



Do you want to be a blogger?

Join the Pesta Blogger programs. For the second year in a row, the U.S. Embassy announced its sponsorship of Pesta Blogger, the largest annual national-level gathering of bloggers from throughout Indonesia.

The theme of Pesta Blogger 2009 is "One Spirit, One Nation."

For more details, see page 3.

About the IRC

The U.S. Embassy's Information Resource Center (IRC) in Jakarta is a specialized Reference and Research Library. Its goal is to provide accurate, up-to-date information to the public about topics such as U.S. foreign policy, legislation, social issues, economics and trade. High speed Internet computers, printer and photo copier are provided at the IRC for library users.

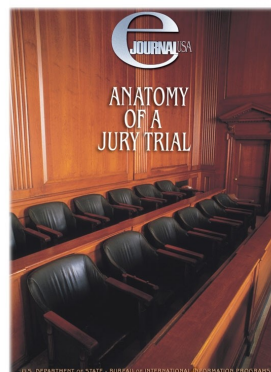
Books, articles, and websites described in the Article Alert present a diversity of views in order to keep our IRC users abreast of current issues in the United States. These items represent the views and opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect official U.S. Government policy.

Anatomy of a Jury Trial

Juries — usually groups of 6 or 12 ordinary citizens — provide a crucial service for their fellow citizens: Just as in medieval England, where they got started, juries prevent government, even democratic government, from pursuing oppressive prosecutions.

You can download the full text of the journal from:
<http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa/0709.html>

For more publications from America.gov please visit:
<http://www.america.gov/publications.html>



Inside this issue:

Blogs at America.gov	P. 1
New e-journal	P. 1
Democracy & Global Issues	P. 2
Economic Security	P. 3
International Security	P. 3
U.S. Society and Values	P. 3

ARTICLE ALERT

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Nations are cooperating to advance human knowledge of the universe.

Understanding the Carbon Cycle

Carbon moves between plants and animals, earth, atmosphere and oceans in a continuous cycle. Understanding this cycle is a key to predicting the behavior of Earth's climate. For more details, please visit: <http://www.america.gov/carbon.html>

The Science and Art of Nanotechnology

Applications for nanotechnology — science on the scale of atoms and molecules — are being developed in nearly every industry, including electronics, energy production, transportation and medicine. For more details, please visit: <http://www.america.gov/nanotechnology.html>

Tracking the H1N1 Flu Outbreak

Learn more about how international organizations are working together to respond to outbreaks of a new strain of a H1N1 virus initially referred to as swine flu. For more details, please visit: http://www.america.gov/h1n1_flu.html

To Work and Play in Space

Forty years after the first human set foot on the moon, business is booming for spaceports and commercial launch vehicles, and citizens of Earth are moving closer to the day when nearly everyone will have access to space. For more details, please visit: <http://www.america.gov/space.html>

DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

1. Marsan, Carolyn **INFOMANIA** (Government Executive, vol. 41, no. 5, May 2009, pp. 34-42)

The author notes that as participatory government brings an onslaught of public comments online, agencies will need the right tools to make sense of it all. In 2008, the General Services Administration (GSA) had 214 million electronic communications with the U.S. public, and it expects that number to increase in 2009. Similar situations have developed at other government agencies as they realize that more and more of public opinion and commentary are going to be sustained through the new media. However, these new examples of social media have several challenges in adopting customer feedback techniques like those used in the private sector, such as asking citizens to rank their interests on various subjects. While federal agencies are new at gathering and analyzing public comments, private business is experienced in managing feedback by combining automated and manual processes, structured and unstructured data. Government agencies

also have legal restrictions; they often have to negotiate standard terms of services with providers because the government is bound by multiple federal regulatory requirements. Currently available online at <http://www.govexec.com/features/0509-01/0509-01s3.htm>

2. Zimmer, Carl **THE BRAIN** (Discover Magazine, vol. 30, no. 7, July/August 2009)

With billions of brain neurons, humans have difficulty staying focused. Mind wandering does not necessarily mean boredom, rather, it is normal. Although we make mistakes when our minds wander, it may also be beneficial. Studies show a profound mind wandering, or “zoning out,” when the person is completely unaware they have lost focus, may be “the most fruitful type.” Mind wandering may invite creative flashes of inspiration. Our brains maintain a delicate balance between near-term and long-term thinking, while monitoring our awareness. Currently available online at <http://discovermagazine.com/2009/jul-aug/15-brain-stop-paying-attention-zoning-out-crucial-mental-state>

ECONOMIC SECURITY

3. Brodsky, Robert **UNTANGLING THE RECOVERY** (Government Executive, vol. 41, no. 6, June 2009, pp. 24-26, 28, 30)

The author believes that government has another chance at proving it can be effective in the present economic climate. In early May 2009, President Obama unveiled his formal fiscal 2010 budget, including a list of 121 cuts to federal programs that added up to a savings of about \$17 billion. Then there is the \$787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, signed less than a month after Obama took office, as an opportunity to prop up a faltering economy, spur long-term investments in energy and in education, and put millions of unemployed Americans back to work. For the nation's over 2.7 million federal employees, the stimulus plan and the new FY2010 budget represent chances to prove that the government can still operate as an effective management organization. Right now, the most

important use of funds are those that are allocated by the Recovery Act to get Americans back to work and to restart a faltering economy. Of this, \$60 billion is expected to be spent on federal contracts with another \$84 million going to the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board that was created to oversee fund disbursement and to manage Recovery.gov, the central government repository for information on the stimulus. Currently available online at <http://www.govexec.com/features/0609-01/0609-01s1.htm>

4. Khurana, Rakesh **MBAS GONE WILD** (American Interest, vol. 4, no. 6, July/August 2009)

The economic crisis that has befallen the U.S. has come about as result of the prevalence of a particular character type in American political, economic and social institutions -- the “loose individual,” who isn't bound by norms of fairness and equity, writes Khurana, a professor at the

ECONOMIC SECURITY, continued...

Harvard Business School. "Outside of their intimates, their relations with others are anchored only in self-interest." The author contends that the economic collapse and an almost decade-long cascade of sordid revelations stretching from Enron to AIG are evidence that "too many loose individuals have been admitted to the inner sanctums of American capitalism." As to how they have come to exert such influence, Khurana points a finger at university-based business schools. Khurana calls for a revamping of business education to create a new generation of business leaders who will help solve a critical problem, not cause it. Currently available online at <http://www.the-american-interest.com/article.cfm?piece=623>

5. Phipps, Carter THE GENIE'S OUT OF THE BOTTLE (EnlightenNext, no. 44, June-August 2009, pp. 54-62)

Globalization has come under fire from many quarters as an exploitative economic trend, but Dr. Thomas Barnett, a geopolitical strategist and author, regards globalization as the most unifying, progressive, and liberating force in human history. Barnett looks across the last century -- wars that raged over the Eurasian land mass for the first half of the 20th century are now virtually unthinkable as the bonds of trade, travel, and commerce have grown, he says. The places where violence still disrupts civil society are those largely untouched by globalization, Barnett tells Phipps in an interview. Barnett thinks that the economic and social trends that unfolded in the United States in the late 19th and early 20th centuries are playing out again in globalization. He predicts that the progressivism and the enrichment of the middle class that occurred at that time will also be the outcome of globalization.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

6. McConnell, Scott NOT SO HUDDLED MASSES: MULTICULTURALISM AND FOREIGN POLICY (World Affairs, vol. 171, no. 4, Spring 2009, pp. 39-50)

The author examines the connection between America's immigration and foreign policy throughout U.S. history. Although Hispanics will make up a quarter of the American population by 2040, this does not guarantee a different foreign policy. Apart from the highly-mobilized Cuban émigré community, Latinos' foreign-

affairs activism remains modest since it is not clear that they have either the resources or the will to influence American foreign policy in a singular way; most new immigrant groups tend to vote Democratic. The author also analyzes the power of ethnic lobbies to exert influence upon U.S. policy. Currently available online at <http://www.worldaffairsjournal.org/2009%20-%20Spring/full-McConnell.html>

SOCIETY & VALUES

7. Etzioni, Amitai SPENT (New Republic, vol. 240, no. 10, June 17, 2009, pp. 20-23)

The author, former president of the American Sociological Association, believes that the debate over how to address the economic crisis has overemphasized regulation. Etzioni believes that the real solution to the economic crisis is to downplay consumerism; a shift away from consumer spending would be a dramatic change for U.S. society, which for years has

been afflicted at all socioeconomic levels by the compulsion to accumulate "high-status" goods. The author does not expect most people to move away from a consumerist mindset, as societies shift direction gradually, but urges more people to turn the current economic crisis into liberation from the obsession with consumer goods and a rethinking of what it means to live a good life. Currently available online at <http://www.tnr.com/politics/story.html?id=80661c9c-9c63-4c9e-a293-6888fc845351>



For the second year in a row, the U.S. Embassy announced its sponsorship of Pesta Blogger, the largest annual national-level gathering of bloggers from throughout Indonesia.

The theme of Pesta Blogger 2009 is "One Spirit, One Nation."

This year's Pesta Blogger will engage communities outside Jakarta and Java. In partnership with the U.S. Embassy, the Pesta Blogger committee is organizing multi-city blogging workshops (or "Blogshops") and smaller, regional Pesta Bloggers from July until mid-October. The Blogshops are designed to encourage more Indonesians to blog constructively, critically and with a sense of social awareness. Cities include Balikpapan, Bandung, Palembang, Samarinda, Makassar, Medan, Malang, Yogyakarta and Surabaya.

Pesta Blogger 2009 will be held on October 24 in Jakarta. It is supported by the Ministry of Communication and Information and is organized by Maverick and Bubu.com.

Link:
<http://pestablogger.com/>

INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER, U.S. EMBASSY, JAKARTA

Information Resource Center
Public Affairs Section
U.S. Embassy Jakarta
Jl. Medan Merdeka Selatan 4-5
Jakarta Pusat 10110

Phone: 021-350-8467
Fax: 021-350-8466
E-mail: IRCAAlert@state.gov

Mailing Label here

ARTICLE ALERT REQUEST FORM
NO. 7, July 2009

Please write your complete name and address IN CAPITAL LETTERS, check (✓) the articles and send your request for June 2009 Article Alert items to the Information Resource Center, U.S. Embassy, before September 2009 via fax (021) 350-8466 or email (IRCAAlert@state.gov)

Name: _____ Position: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone/HP/Fax: _____ Email: _____

1. () INFOMANIA
2. () THE BRAIN
3. () UNTANGLING THE RECOVERY
4. () MBAS GONE WILD
5. () THE GENIE'S OUT OF THE BOTTLE
6. () NOT SO HUDDLED MASSES:
MULTICULTURALISM AND FOREIGN POLICY
7. () SPENT

Special Offers:

- () Anatomy of a Jury Trial (see page 1)

JOIN OUR ONLINE COMMUNITIES



<http://www.facebook.com/ejournalUSA>
<http://twitter.com/americagov>

U.S. Embassy Jakarta Facebook
<http://www.facebook.com/jakarta.usembassy>